



Transportation Safety Commission      City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

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**TO:**    Transportation Safety Commission Members, Council members, City Manager Kurt Hodgen, Assistant City Manager Evan Vass

**FROM:** Thanh Dang, Public Works Planner

**DATE:** May 4, 2010

**RE:**    Transportation Safety Commission Summary from April 1, 2010 Meeting

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The Transportation Safety Commission met on Thursday April 1, 2010 at the City Municipal Building, 345 S. Main St.

Members and Advisory Members present included: Bill Blessing (Chair), Officer Greg Deeds (Police), Drew Williams (Public Works), Thanh Dang (Public Works), Lee Eschelman (JMU), Ofc. Greg Deeds (Police), Doug Stader (DMV), Len Van Wyk (citizen member), Diane Roll (Police)

Guests Present include: None.

*Citizens are always provided the opportunity to voice their views/concerns about any item before the commission. It is the policy of the Commission to move the agenda item to the beginning of the meeting when citizens attend Commission meetings to avoid detaining citizens for the entire meeting. However, any citizen is welcome to stay for the entire meeting.*

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*Welcome*

*Old Business*

**1. Update: Transit Bus/ Bicycle Safety Training held March 14**

Ms. Dang presented that on March 14, 2010 the Transit Department held a safety training for all of their drivers. The topic was "Share the Road – Buses and Bicycles." Ms. Dang attended the training and helped answer staff questions. The video can be viewed at: <http://ebbc.org/?q=node/4852>.

**New Business**

## **2. Request from Council to Review College Avenue (Parkview) for four way stop signs at intersection with Parkway Dr., Upland Dr., and Shank Dr.**

Mr. Williams introduced this item as a request from Councilman Dave Wiens and the PARMAC group. PARMAC represents a collection of institutions located in the Park View area and meets quarterly or semi-annually. The group has concerns about speeding on College Avenue. Officer Deeds noted that he has not received any complaints from citizens regarding speeding concerns in this area.

Based on general observations made Commission members believe there is limited, if any, cut through traffic and that speeders are likely residents living in the neighborhood. Also based on observations the Commission does not believe that the stop signs would be warranted, however, the Commission recommended staff to do studies and report back at next meeting.

## **3. Consideration of right-turn lane on Parkwood Drive at Virginia Avenue**

This item for review also comes from Councilman Dave Wiens and the PARMAC group. Mr. Williams described that during school dismissal from Eastern Mennonite Middle and High Schools, cars turning left from Parkwood Drive onto Virginia Avenue (Route 42) hold up right turning traffic.

Commission members asked and discussed: How much delay is caused? Can drivers be encouraged or forced not to make left turns? Should and can a right turn lane be constructed? If the left turn lane is not long enough then the problem will be pushed back further on Parkwood Dr. There is a safety concern if drivers make unsafe maneuvers when they are frustrated.

The Commission recommended that staff conduct counts and observations, and that accident data be reviewed and presented to the Commission at the next meeting.

## **4. Request for additional street lighting on College Avenue**

This request also comes from Councilman Dave Wiens and the PARMAC group. Harrisonburg Electric Commission (HEC) has criteria that Brian O'Dell, HEC's Manager of Engineering, is reviewing in consideration of this request. Staff will report back to the Commission next month on this item.

## **5. Request for crosswalk on east side of East Market Street and Mason Street intersection**

This request comes from the owner of Brooklyn's Café & Lounge, 50 South Mason Street. The owner has a safety concern, and requests consideration of a crosswalk crossing from the northeast to southeast corners of the intersection. Currently, there is a crosswalk at the other three crossings of the intersection with pedestrian signalization.

The Commission discussed the large corner radius at the northeast corner for trucks and the smaller turning radius on the southeast corner, which misaligns the corners. Also discussed was that there is no sidewalk on the eastside of Mason Street to the north of the intersection. There is sidewalk on the northside of East Market Street east of the intersection.

Mr. Van Wyk expressed that there should be a crosswalk there. Mr. Blessing noted that there is no requirement to have a crosswalk, but he could see why the owner would want one. Mr. Smith suggested that when Urban Exchange fills up with commercial uses that we might see more pedestrians in that area. Ms. Roll suggested that the 4, 5, and 6 o'clock hours in the afternoon were the busiest at this intersection. Mr. Williams noted that if a crosswalk and signal were installed at this location, that there might be potential conflicts with pedestrians walking with permissive left turns (from southbound Mason Street to eastbound East Market Street). Commission members discussed that the misaligned intersection puts pedestrians starting to cross at the northeast intersection out of the line of sight of a motorist making this movement.

The Commission recommended that staff make observations and report back at next meeting.

#### **6. School Lights at Pleasant Valley Road**

Officer Deeds asked if flashing strobe lights to enhance the existing school warning signs could be installed on Pleasant Valley Road. Vehicles are traveling through that area at 45-57 mph. Mr. Williams noted that installing the lights is a function of VDOT because Pleasant Valley Elementary School is a Rockingham County school.

City staff will look into this and report back at next meeting.

#### **7. Wrong Way driving on Main Street and Liberty Street**

Ms. Roll shared an idea and asked if arrows could be installed into the green ball of a traffic signal at intersections approaching Main Street and Liberty Street in the downtown area to help motorists not turn the wrong way onto a one way street. Commission members discussed that the design suggested is not MUTCD (FHWA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) approved, and members did not think there would be enough room within the signal to create an arrow that pointed straight and right/left.

Commission members acknowledged that motorists are observed going the wrong way on these streets even though there are one way signs and no left turn signs at these intersections. A Commission member expressed that all communities with one way streets face this problem. The Commission discussed that the low speeds (25 mph) in the downtown area do help prevent accidents when a motorists does go the wrong way, as no accidents are recalled by Commission members resulting from going the wrong way. A Commission member suggested that perhaps arrows on the pavement could help.

The Commission made no recommendations on this item.

#### **8. Block Party April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**

Ms. Roll announced that there is a planned Block Party at Devon Lane and Forest Hills and that she and HPD has initiated outreach to students.

#### **9. Neighborhood Traffic Calming**

Ms. Dang reported to the Commission that Mr. Alan Baker, 281 Paul Street, has contacted her with interest in the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program for Paul Street between Mason Street and Ott Street. Ms. Dang has provided Mr. Baker information on the program, petition process, and has identified the neighborhood boundary. Staff will report back to the Commission as this moves forward.

#### **10. Bike Like Ike Campaign**

Ms. Dang handed out the new flyers for the new Bike Like Ike Campaign. This campaign was started at the request of City Council to educate the community on safe bicycling practices and driving around bicyclists. Because the Council specifically noted university students they observed, Ms. Dang and Miriam Dickler, city Public Information Officer, decided to make the initial campaign audience university students. In Spring 2009, Ms. Dang and Ms. Dickler began working with a Public Relations Campaign class at James Madison University who developed the Bike Like Ike Campaign. This campaign will feature flyers, bus advertisements, a website, etc.

The Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) and Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) are also partners in this. Each organizations' respective Bicycle & Pedestrian committee members have reviewed and assisted with campaign messaging. The CSPDC has added Bike Like Ike to its website [www.bikethevalley.org](http://www.bikethevalley.org), featuring additional bicyclist and motorist tips. The HRMPO has funded the first printing batch of the flyers and will likely fund future campaign materials.

#### **11. Overview of Davis, CA trip**

Ms. Dang handed out a list of question and answers collected on the trip. A presentation will be presented at next meeting.

#### **12. Summer 2010 Commission meeting dates**

The Commission will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 9AM.

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY April 6, 2010 AT 9:00AM at City Municipal Building Room 205, 345 S. Main St.**